

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing multifunction system comprising:
  - a plurality of printers, a plurality of scanners, and a server connected to each other, wherein
    - 5 each of the scanners acquires image data of a document and the server sends the image data acquired by the scanner to one of the printers for printing.
- 10 2. The image processing multifunction system according to claim 1, wherein each of the scanners includes an operation unit having a configuration such that the scanner can be operated by operating the operation unit alone.
- 15 3. The image processing multifunction system according to claim 1, wherein the number of the scanners is less than the number of the printers.
4. The image processing multifunction system according to claim 1, wherein the scanners and the server are connected via a network.
- 20 5. The image processing multifunction system according to claim 4, wherein the network is a local area network based an Ethernet communication system.
6. The image processing multifunction system according to claim 4, further comprising a client that is connected to the network.

7. The image processing multifunction system according to claim 1,  
wherein the scanners are integrated in the server.

8. The image processing multifunction system according to claim 1,  
5 wherein the server and the printers are connected via a bus bridge.

9. The image processing multifunction system according to claim 8,  
further comprising:

10 a data transmitting unit conforming a high-speed serial interface  
standard, wherein the data transmitting unit connects the server with the bus  
bridge, and the bus bridge with the printers.

10. The image processing multifunction system according to claim 1,  
wherein the printers have different printing performances.

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11. The image processing multifunction system according to claim 10,  
wherein the different printing performances include at least one of a difference  
in image quality, a difference in printing speed, and a difference between color  
printing and monochrome printing.

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12. The image processing multifunction system according to claim 1,  
wherein the server includes

a printer selecting unit that selects a printer to which the image data  
are to be supplied.

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13. The image processing multifunction system according to claim 12,  
wherein the printer selecting unit selects a printer that complies with a mode  
set by the operation unit of the scanner.

5 14. The image processing multifunction system according to claim 12,  
wherein the printer selecting unit selects a printer that is free.

15. The image processing multifunction system according to claim 12,  
wherein the server further includes  
10 a display controller that makes the operation unit of the scanner display  
the printer selected by the printer selecting unit.

16. A server comprising:  
a first interface to which a plurality of printers and a plurality of  
15 scanners are connected, wherein each of the scanners acquires image data of  
a document; and  
a second interface to which a network is connected, wherein  
the server sends the image data acquired by the scanner to one of the  
printers for printing.

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17. The image processing multifunction system according to claim 16,  
wherein each of the scanners includes an operation unit having a configuration  
such that the scanner can be operated by operating the operation unit alone.

18. The server according to claim 16, wherein the scanners are integrated in the server.

19. A scanner comprising:

5 an interface that is connected to a server, wherein the server is connected with a network and a plurality of printers, manages and controls the printers;

a scanner engine; and

an operation unit, wherein

10 when in a copying mode, the scanner reads image data from a document via the scanner engine by operating the operation unit alone, and supplies the image data to one of the printers via the server.